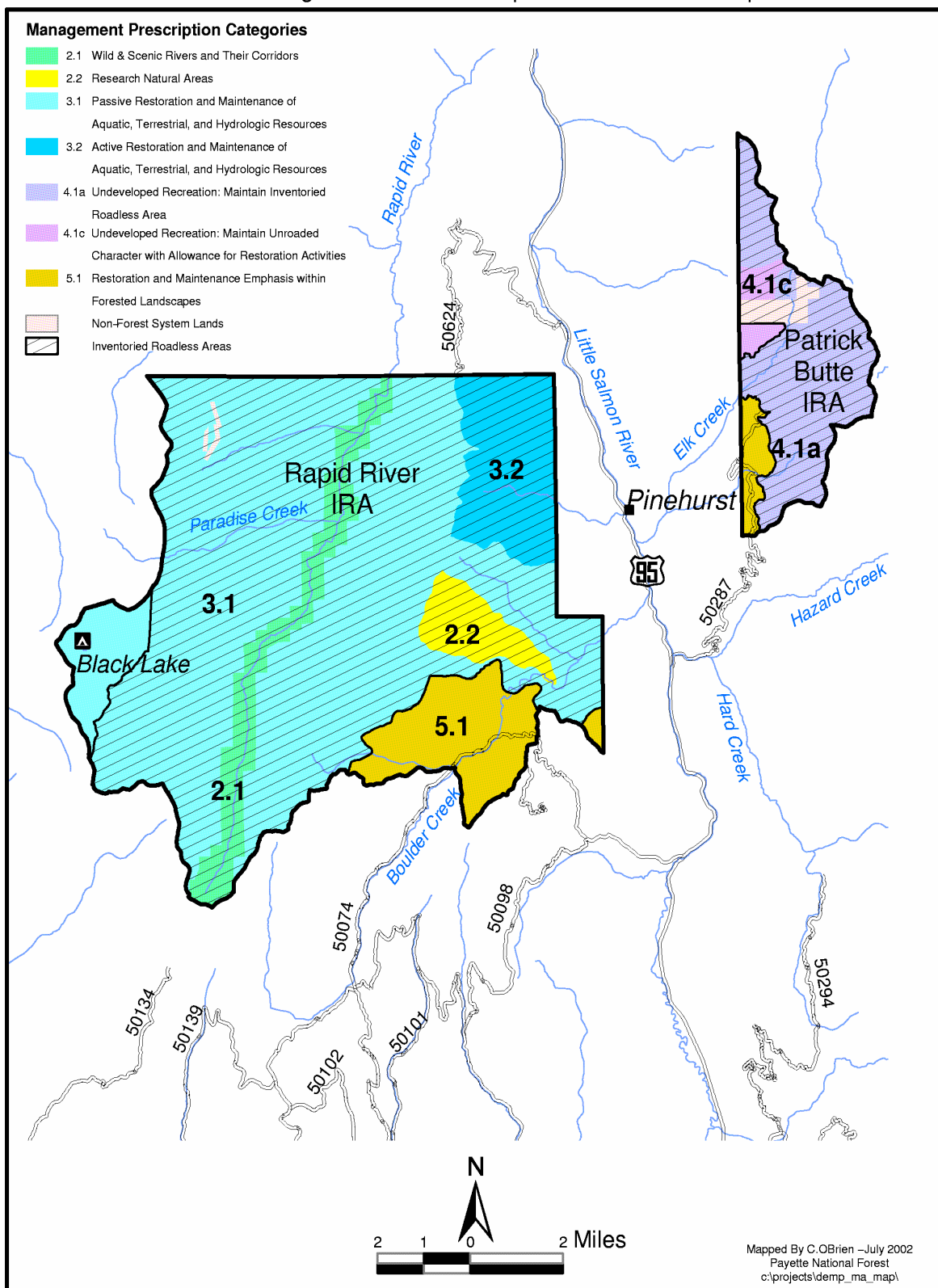


Management Area 04 –Rapid River –Location Map



## Management Area 4 Rapid River

### MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

**Management Prescriptions** - Management Area 4 has the following management prescriptions (see map on preceding page for distribution of prescriptions).

Management Prescription Category (MPC)	Percent of Mgt. Area
2.1 – Wild and Scenic Rivers	6
2.2 – Research Natural Areas	3
3.1 – Passive Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial & Hydrologic Resources	62
3.2 – Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial & Hydrologic Resources	8
4.1a - Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Inventoried Roadless Areas	11
4.1c – Undeveloped Rec.: Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration	1
5.1 – Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes	9

**General Location and Description** - Management Area 4 is comprised of lands administered by the Payette National Forest within the Rapid River and Little Salmon River drainages (see map, preceding page). The area includes a small portion of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, which is administered by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest out of Enterprise, Oregon. Management Area 4 lies in Adams and Idaho Counties, and is part of the New Meadows Ranger District. The area is an estimated 62,900 acres, which includes small private land inholdings that make up about 1 percent of the area. The area is comprised of a large section west of the Little Salmon River, and a small section east of the Little Salmon River in the Elk Creek drainage. The western section is bordered by the Hells Canyon Wilderness Area to the west, the Payette National Forest to the south, the Nez Perce National Forest to the north, and a mix of BLM, private, and State lands to the east. The eastern section is bordered by Payette National Forest to the north, east, and south, and a mix of State, BLM, and private lands to the west. The primary uses in this management area have been dispersed recreation, watershed and fish habitat protection, livestock grazing, and timber management.

**Access** - Access routes to the area include the graveled Smoky-Boulder Road (Forest Road 074) and native-surfaced Forest Road 112 to Black Lake, the Hazard-Tepee Road (Forest Road 287), and the White Bird Ridge Road (Nez Perce Forest Road 624). The density of classified roads for the area is an estimated 0.3 miles per square mile, as most of the area is inventoried as roadless. Total road density for area subwatersheds ranges between 0 and 2.4 miles per square mile. A network of trails provides access to portions of the roadless areas. Access to the Forest is limited in the Little Salmon River corridor due to private land ownership.

The Forest has a cost-share agreement with Boise Corporation and the State of Idaho for building and maintaining a cooperative road system in which all costs and responsibilities are shared. Boise Corporation lands occur in the Trail Creek Subwatershed, and State lands occur primarily in the Elk Creek and Rattlesnake-Fall Subwatersheds.

**Special Features** - Rapid River is a designated Wild and Scenic River for all of its length in this management area. This river segment has a Wild classification, and is an estimated 13.1 miles long, with an associated river corridor of 4,185 acres.

Important habitat for Threatened chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout exists in Rapid River and Boulder Creek. Important elk and deer winter/spring range occurs in the Rapid River drainage. Pollock Mountain Lookout provides excellent views of the area. The Black Lake area is a popular recreation destination in the Hells Canyon NRA, which is managed by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Pony Creek Research Natural Area (1,900 acres) encompasses a diversity of habitat types, and represents a transition area between northern and southern Idaho vegetation.

An estimated 86 percent of the management area is inventoried as roadless, including portions of the Rapid River (47,103 of 57,733 acres on the Payette NF, 23,300 acres on adjacent Nez Perce NF) and Patrick Butte (7,033 acres of 80,676 acres) Roadless Areas.

**Air Quality** - This management area lies primarily within Montana/Idaho Airshed ID-15 and Adams County. Particulate matter is the primary pollutant of concern related to Forest management activities. There is an ambient air monitor located in McCall within the airshed to evaluate current background levels, trends, and seasonal patterns of particulate matter. There are two Class I areas within 100 kilometers of this management area, the Hells Canyon and Eagle Cap Wildernesses. Visibility monitoring has been expanded for these areas.

Between 1995 and 1999, emissions trends within Adams County improved for PM 10, while PM 2.5 emissions remained constant. The most common sources of particulate matter in the county were wildfire, prescribed fire, and fugitive dust from unpaved roads. In addition to Forest management activities, crop residue and ditch burning may contribute to particulate matter emissions, although the amount of agricultural-related burning was very low within Adams County (less than 600 acres). There were no point sources within the county.

**Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources** - Elevations range from 2,200 feet on Rapid River to 8,747 feet atop Jackley Mountain. Management Area 4 falls within the Seven Devils Mountains, Hornet Plateau, and Granite Mountain Uplands Subsections. The main geomorphic landforms found in the area are glaciated mountains and uplands, periglacial uplands and mountain slopes, plateaus and escarpments, and fluvial mountains and steep canyonlands. Slope gradients range from 10 to 80 percent in the glaciated mountains and uplands, 15 to 40 percent on the periglacial uplands and mountain slopes, 30 to 80 percent on the fluvial mountains and steep canyonlands, and 15 to 80 percent on the plateaus and escarpments. The surface geology is a mix of Seven Devils volcanics and Columbia River basalts, with border zone metamorphics in the Elk Creek area. Soils generally have low to moderate surface erosion potential, and low to moderate productivity. Subwatershed vulnerability ratings range from low to high, with the

majority being low (see table below). Geomorphic Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from high (functioning appropriately) to moderate (functioning at risk) to low (not functioning appropriately), with half rated high (see table below).

The management area comprises portions of the Rapid River, Lower Little Salmon, and Middle Little Salmon Watersheds that drain into the Little Salmon River Subbasin, which flows north to the Salmon River. Portions of the Lower Boulder Creek and Trail Creek Subwatersheds of the Middle Little Salmon Watershed lie within the management area. The main streams in the area are Rapid River, Boulder Creek, Lockwood Creek, Fall Creek, and Elk Creek. There are several high mountain lakes at the eastern edge of the Seven Devils Mountains, and in the upper Elk Creek drainage. Water Quality Integrity ratings for the subwatersheds vary from high (functioning appropriately) to moderate (functioning at risk) (see table below). Water quality is generally functioning appropriately, although the upper portion of lower Boulder Creek has localized areas where road culverts and lack of large woody debris are concerns. Unauthorized use by ATVs has also caused erosion and sediment deposition problems. Two of the 10 subwatersheds in this area were listed in 1998 as having impaired water bodies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. These subwatersheds are Indian-Denny and Elk Creek. The pollutant of concern for both subwatersheds is sediment. There are currently no TMDL-assigned subbasins associated with this management area.

Subwatershed Vulnerability			Geomorphic Integrity			Water Quality Integrity			No. 303(d) Subs	No. Subs With TMDLs	No. Public Water System Subs
High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low	High	Mod.	Low			
1	3	6	5	3	2	6	4	0	2	0	0

The area has designated critical habitat for chinook salmon. Threatened chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout occur in the Rapid River and Boulder Creek drainages. The Rapid River Watershed is considered an aquatic stronghold for these species. Strong local populations of bull trout exist in the Lower Boulder, Copper-Castle, Upper Rapid River, Fry Pan-Paradise, and Lake Fork Creek subwatersheds. Native redband rainbow trout also occur in some area streams, as do introduced brook trout. Non-native species, such as brook trout, pose a threat to bull trout and other native species through hybridization and competition for space and food at all life stages. The Rapid River Fish Hatchery lies downstream from the Rapid River portion of the management area. Aquatic habitat is at properly functioning condition in Rapid River; however, habitat is at risk in Boulder Creek due to accelerated sediment from roads, grazing, and timber harvest, and reduced stream flows from irrigation diversions. The Lower Boulder Creek subwatershed has been identified as important to the recovery of listed fish species, and as a high-priority area for active restoration. The Upper Rapid River and Copper-Castle subwatersheds have strong populations, excellent watershed conditions, and associated aquatic habitat that serve as conservation pools to assist in recovery of listed fish species.

**Vegetation** - Vegetation at lower elevations is typically grasslands, shrublands, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir on south and west aspects, and Douglas-fir and grand fir forests on north and east aspects. Mid and upper elevations are dominated by forest communities of Douglas-fir, grand fir, and subalpine fir, with pockets of lodgepole pine and aspen.

An estimated 12 percent of the area is rock, water, shrubland, or grassland--predominantly Perennial Grass Slopes. The main forested vegetation groups are Cool Moist Grand Fir (24 percent), Warm Dry Subalpine Fir (22 percent), Dry Grand Fir (15 percent), and Warm Moist/Hydric Subalpine Fir (12 percent).

The Perennial Grass Slopes, Warm Moist/Hydric Subalpine Fir, and Warm Dry Subalpine fir groups are functioning properly. The Cool Moist Grand Fir is functioning properly, but the risk of uncharacteristic fire is increasing due to fire exclusion and the increase in climax species and old structural stages. The Dry Grand Fir group is functioning at risk for an uncharacteristic fire that would not be within historical norms. Fire exclusion has created high stand densities and fuel loadings, a high percentage of grand fir, and shifted this group from a mixed severity to a lethal fire regime.

Riparian vegetation is functioning properly in most areas.

**Botanical Resources** – Puzzling halimolobos, a Region 4 Sensitive species, is found in this management area. Currently, no federally listed or proposed plant species are known to occur in the area, although potential habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses, Spalding's silene, and slender moonwort may exist. Ute's ladies'-tresses, a Threatened orchid species, may have moderate potential habitat in riparian/wetland areas up to 7,000 feet. Spalding's silene, a Threatened species, may occur in fescue grassland habitats from 1,500 to 5,500 feet. Slender moonwort, a Candidate species, may occur in moderate to higher elevation grasslands, meadows, and small openings in spruce and lodgepole pine.

**Non-native Plants** – A number of noxious weeds and exotic plants have been found within the area. Although only 9 percent of the management area is considered highly susceptible to invasion by non-native plants, efforts are still made to detect and minimize expansion of undesired species. The main noxious weed of concern is spotted knapweed. Canada thistle, yellow toadflax, and St. Johnswort also occur within the area.

**Wildlife Resources** - The wide range of elevations and vegetation types in the management area provide a variety of wildlife habitats. The lower elevation grasslands and forests in Rapid River provide important winter/spring range for elk and deer. Forests provide habitat for a number of Region 4 sensitive species, including northern goshawk, flammulated owl, white-headed woodpecker, great gray owl, boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, and spotted frog. Habitat for lynx, a threatened species, exists throughout this area and has been mapped in Lynx Analysis Units. The entire area also provides nesting and forage habitat for migratory landbirds, and general habitat for wide-ranging mammals like elk, bear, and mountain lion. Overall, terrestrial habitat is at properly functioning condition in the high-elevation subalpine fir types, but is functioning at risk to uncharacteristic wildfire in lower-elevation grand fir and Douglas-fir types. Most of the area is without roads or harvest areas, and levels of habitat fragmentation and human-caused disturbance are generally very low. In the roaded portions of the area, mature and old trees still exist, but they are in small, fragmented blocks. Illegal ATV use is occurring within designated non-motorized areas, and increasing big-game vulnerability during hunting season.

**Recreation Resources** - Dispersed recreation and trail opportunities (e.g., hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, and horse riding) are the recreation emphases in this management area. Both motorized and non-motorized opportunities are provided on a network of trails. Recreation experiences are primarily semi-primitive. However, high quality opportunities for primitive recreation exist in the Rapid River Watershed in the western portion of the area. Non-motorized trail opportunities are the recreation emphasis for the Rapid River Watershed. There are many dispersed campsites in the management area but only one developed campground (at Black Lake). The area is in Idaho Fish and Game Management Unit 23. Recreation use comes from local communities (McCall, New Meadows, Riggins), as well as from the Treasure Valley (Boise, Nampa, Caldwell). Two outfitter and guide operations are permitted to use the area at this time. Non-permitted outfitter and guide operations are also occurring, causing conflict with permitted outfitter and guides.

Unauthorized cross-country ATV travel has caused resource damage in riparian areas and created eroded non-system trails throughout the management area. User conflicts are escalating between motorized and non-motorized recreationists within the Rapid River Watershed. Trails designed for 2-wheel motorized vehicles are being used illegally by 4-wheel ATVs.

**Scenic Environment** – Much of the area is considered to have high visual sensitivity. Visually sensitive routes and use areas represent locations from which the scenic environment is considered especially important. These routes or areas generally have a more restrictive VQO assigned to them than areas not seen from such locations. The following is a list of visually sensitive routes or use areas with this management area. There may also be sensitive routes or use areas in adjacent management areas that could be affected by actions taken in this management area.

Route or Area Type	Sensitivity Level	Name of Route or Area
Roads	1	Black Lake 112, Hazard Teepee 287, Viewshed from US Highway 95
Roads	2	Smokey Boulder 047
Trails	1	Rapid River 177, Black Lake Creek 188, Twin Lakes Creek 328, Echols Ridge 187, North Star Creek 183, Fry Pan Creek 279, Elk Lake 347, Paradise Creek, 186, Trail Creek 185, Copper Creek 190
Trails	2	Cow Camp 081, Rapid River Ridge 178, Indian Springs 184, Cub Creek 362, Bryan Mountain 323, Hard Butte 344, Sheep Mountain 157, Dempsey Flat 369
Use Areas	1	Pollock Mountain Lookout, Black Lake Campground
Use Areas	2	Trail 081 trailhead

**Cultural Resources** – The main cultural themes in this area are Prehistoric and Mining. This area was likely used for centuries by American Indian ancestors for hunting, fishing, gathering, and as travel ways between the Snake and Salmon River corridors and Meadows Valley. Historic mining occurred around the Black Lake and Seven Devils areas in the upper reaches of the Rapid River Watershed.

**Timberland Resources** - Of the estimated 44,000 tentatively suited acres in this management area, 4,400 acres have been identified as being suited timberlands, or appropriate for timber production. This represents about 1 percent of the Forest's suited timberland acres. The suited timberland acres are found in MPC 5.1 (see MPC map for this management area). Lands in MPCs 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1a, and 4.1c have been identified as not suited for timber production. No timber harvest has taken place in the roadless portion of Rapid River due mostly to concerns with access, economic efficiency, and protection of water quality and listed species. Harvest has occurred in the roaded portions of the management area.

**Rangeland Resources** - The management area contains all or portions of four allotments, with two sheep allotments located primarily in the western third of the area, and two cattle allotments located throughout the remaining area. This area has an estimated 9,400 acres of capable rangeland, which represents about 4 percent of the capable rangeland on the Forest.

**Mineral Resources** - Although the western portion of the management area has had a colorful history of hard rock exploration, no activity occurs today. The potential for mineral development is considered high in the western portion of the management area, and moderate to low over the rest of the area.

**Fire Management** - Prescribed fire has been used to improve winter/spring habitat conditions, maintain water quality, and restore vegetation to historic conditions in portions of the Rapid River Watershed. An estimated 9,670 acres have been treated since 1984. Only one large wildland fire has occurred in the last 15 years. The Curren Fire burned an estimated 20,000 acres within the Rapid River drainage in 1989. Recent research has demonstrated that fire exclusion among dry forest types in the area has changed fire regimes, forest structure, and fire risk. In the absence of fire, forest succession has resulted in increases in stand density and fuel loadings. Because these conditions predispose dry forest types to lethal wildfires, an aggressive program of prescribed fire is planned in the Rapid River Watershed over the next planning period. Similar conditions occur in the Little Salmon River drainage, however wildland-urban interface access and protection concerns there may require a combination of fire and mechanical treatments to safely reduce the risk of wildfire.

Pinehurst is a National Fire Plan community, and Lower Boulder Creek and Rattlesnake-Fall are considered wild land-urban interface subwatersheds due to residential development adjacent to the Forest. The same subwatersheds are also considered to pose risks to life and property from potential post-fire floods and debris flows. Historical fire regimes for the area are estimated to be: 16 percent lethal, 62 percent mixed 1 or 2, and 23 percent non-lethal. An estimated 22 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are highly departed from their historical range. Twelve percent of this change has occurred in the historically non-lethal fire regimes, resulting in conditions where wildfire would likely be much larger and more intense and severe than historically. In addition, 25 percent of the area regimes have vegetation conditions that are moderately departed from their historical range. Wildfire in these areas may result in larger patch sizes of high intensity or severity, but not to the same extent as in the highly departed areas in non-lethal fire regimes.

**Lands and Special Uses** - There is a special use authorization for a small FERC-exempted hydropower facility.

## MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

In addition to Forest-wide Goals, Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines that provide direction for all management areas, the following direction has been developed specifically for this area.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>MPC 2.1 Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>	Standard	0401	Manage Rapid River to its assigned Wild and Scenic River classification standards, and preserve the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) and the rivers' free-flowing status.
	Fire Guideline	0402	Prescribed fire and wildland fire use may be used in any river corridor as long as ORVs are maintained within the corridor.
	Fire Guideline	0403	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Fire suppression strategies and tactics should minimize impacts to river classifications and Outstandingly Remarkable Values.
<b>MPC 2.2 Research Natural Areas</b>	Standard	0404	Allow non-motorized travel only in the Pony Creek RNA (Forest Trail 181) to help maintain the features for which the area was established.
	Vegetation Standard	0405	Mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use may only be used to maintain values for which the areas were established, or to achieve other objectives that are consistent with the RNA establishment record or management plan.
	Road Standard	0406	Road construction and reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To maintain the values for which the RNA was established.
	Fire Guideline	0407	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Fire suppression strategies and tactics should minimize impacts to the values for which the RNA was established.
<b>MPC 3.1 Passive Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources</b>	General Standard	0408	Management actions, including salvage harvest, may only degrade aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions in the temporary time period (up to 3 years), and must be designed to avoid resource degradation in the short term (3-15 years) and long term (greater than 15 years).
	Vegetation Standard	0409	Mechanical vegetation treatments, excluding salvage harvest, may only occur where: a) The responsible official determines that wildland fire use or prescribed fire would result in unreasonable risk to public safety and structures, investments, or undesirable resource affects; and b) They maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species; or c) They maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species.



MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>MPC 3.1</b> <b>Passive Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources</b>	Fire Standard	0410	Wildland fire use and prescribed fire may only be used where they: a) Maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species, or b) Maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species.
	Road Standard	0411	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To address immediate response situations where, if the action is not taken, unacceptable impacts to hydrologic, aquatic, riparian or terrestrial resources, or health and safety, would result.
	Fire Guideline	0412	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize suppression strategies or tactics that minimize impacts on aquatic, terrestrial, or watershed resources.
<b>MPC 3.2</b> <b>Active Restoration and Maintenance of Aquatic, Terrestrial, and Hydrologic Resources</b>	General Standard	0413	Management actions, including salvage harvest, may only degrade aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed resource conditions in the temporary (up to 3 years) or short-term (3-15 years) time periods, and must be designed to avoid degradation of existing conditions in the long term (greater than 15 years).
	Vegetation Standard	0414	Vegetation restoration or maintenance treatments—including wildland fire use, mechanical, and prescribed fire—may only occur where they: a) Maintain or restore water quality needed to fully support beneficial uses and habitat for native and desired non-native fish species; or b) Maintain or restore habitat for native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species; or c) Reduce risk of impacts from wildland fire to human life, structures, and investments.
	Road Standard	0415	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To support aquatic, terrestrial, and watershed restoration activities, or d) To address immediate response situations where, if the action is not taken, unacceptable impacts to hydrologic, aquatic, riparian or terrestrial resources, or health and safety, would result.
	Fire Guideline	0416	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize suppression strategies and tactics that minimize impacts on aquatic, terrestrial, or watershed resources.
<b>MPC 4.1a</b> <b>Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Inventoried Roadless Areas</b>	General Standard	0417	Management actions—including wildland fire use, prescribed fire, and special use authorizations—must be designed and implemented in a manner that does not adversely compromise the area’s roadless and undeveloped character in the temporary, short term, and long term. “Adversely compromise” means an action that results in the reduction of roadless or undeveloped acres within any specific IRA. Exceptions to this standard are actions in the 4.1a Road standard, below.
	Road Standard	0418	Road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>MPC 4.1a</b>	Fire Guideline	0419	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize tactics that minimize impacts of suppression activities on the roadless or undeveloped character of the area.
<b>MPC 4.1c Undeveloped Recreation: Maintain Unroaded Character with Allowance for Restoration Activities</b>	General Standard	0420	Management actions—including mechanical vegetation treatments, salvage harvest, wildland fire use, prescribed fire, special use authorizations, and road maintenance—must be designed and implemented in a manner that would be consistent with the unroaded landscape in the temporary, short term, and long term. “Adversely compromise” means an action that results in the reduction of roadless or undeveloped acres within any specific IRA. Exceptions to this standard are actions in the 4.1c road standards, below.
	Road Standard	0421	Within Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs), road construction and reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty.
	Road Standard	0422	Outside IRAs, road construction or reconstruction may only occur where needed: a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or b) To respond to statute or treaty, or c) To provide transportation systems that support accomplishment of Management Area ROS objectives.
	Fire Guideline	0423	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize tactics that minimize impacts of suppression activities on the unroaded landscape.
<b>MPC 5.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes</b>	Road Standard	0424	There shall be no net increase in road densities in the MPC 5.1 portion of the Lower Boulder Creek subwatershed unless it can be demonstrated through the project-level NEPA analysis and related Biological Assessment that: a) For resources that are within their range of desired conditions, the increase in road densities shall not result in degradation to those resources unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those resource conditions; and b) For resources that are already in a degraded condition, the increase in road densities shall not further degrade nor retard attainment of desired resource conditions unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those resource conditions; and c) Adverse effects to TEPC species or their habitat are avoided unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those TEPC species or their habitat.  An exception to this standard is where additional roads are required to respond to reserved or outstanding rights, statute or treaty, or respond to emergency situations (e.g., wildfires threatening life or property, or search and rescue operations).

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>MPC 5.1 Restoration and Maintenance Emphasis within Forested Landscapes</b>	Road Standard	0425	<p>New roads and landings shall be located outside of RCAs in the MPC 5.1 portion of the Lower Boulder Creek subwatershed unless it can be demonstrated through the project-level NEPA analysis and related Biological Assessment that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) For resources that are within their range of desired conditions, the addition of a new road or landing in an RCA shall not result in degradation to those resources unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those resource conditions; and</li> <li>b) For resources that are already in a degraded condition, the addition of a new road or landing in an RCA shall not further degrade nor retard attainment of desired resource conditions unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those resource conditions; and</li> <li>c) Adverse effects to TEPC species or their habitats are avoided unless outweighed by demonstrable short- or long-term benefits to those TEPC species or their habitats.</li> </ul> <p>An exception to this standard is where construction of new roads in RCAs is required to respond to reserved or outstanding rights, statute or treaty, or respond to emergency situations (e.g., wildfires threatening life or property, or search and rescue operations).</p>
	Road Guideline	0426	<p>Road construction or reconstruction may occur where needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To provide access related to reserved or outstanding rights, or</li> <li>b) To respond to statute or treaty, or</li> <li>c) To achieve restoration and maintenance objectives for vegetation, water quality, aquatic habitat, or terrestrial habitat; or</li> <li>d) To support management actions taken to reduce wildfire risks in wildland-urban interface areas; or</li> <li>e) To meet access and travel management objectives.</li> </ul>
	Vegetation Guideline	0427	The full range of treatment activities may be used to restore and maintain desired vegetation and fuel conditions. The available vegetation treatment activities include wildland fire use. Salvage harvest may also occur.
	Fire Guideline	0428	The full range of fire suppression strategies may be used to suppress wildfires. Emphasize strategies and tactics that minimize impacts to habitats, developments, and investments.
<b>Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources</b>	Objective	0429	Improve water quality by reducing road-related accelerated sediment through a combination of road closure, obliteration, decommissioning, relocation, reconstruction, and maintenance in the upper portion of the Lower Boulder Creek subwatershed.
	Objective	0430	Coordinate with Hells Canyon NRA to reclaim Iron Springs Mine to improve water quality in Paradise Creek.
	Objective	0431	Improve soil productivity in the Paradise Flat and Holbrook Saddle areas by stabilizing gullies and headcuts.
	Objective	0432	Maintain existing high-quality fish habitat in the Rapid River watershed to maintain the aquatic stronghold for threatened fish species.
	Objective	0433	Restore fish habitat in the upper portion of the Lower Boulder Creek subwatershed by emphasizing aquatic connectivity (removal of fish barrier culverts) and reducing riparian road densities.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>Soil, Water, Riparian, and Aquatic Resources</b>	Objective	0434	Maintain habitat conditions to provide for strong local populations of bull trout in the Copper-Castle, Fry Pan-Paradise, Lake Fork Creek, Upper Rapid River, and Lower Boulder Creek subwatersheds.
	Objective	0435	Continue ongoing culvert removal projects to resolve existing fish passage problems, primarily in Lower Boulder Creek subwatershed.
	Objective	0436	Enforce motorized trail designations and restrictions with increased on-the-ground patrols to minimize erosion and sedimentation problems in riparian areas.
<b>Vegetation</b>	Objective	0437	Use a mix of prescribed and wildland fire, and mechanical treatments to restore or maintain vegetative composition and structure, and to reduce fuel loadings.
<b>Botanical Resources</b>	Objective	0438	Maintain or restore known populations and occupied habitats of TEPCS plant species, including puzzling halimolobos, to contribute to the long-term viability of these species.
<b>Non-native Plants</b>	Objective	0439	To reduce impacts on native plants and other resources, eradicate new and small infestations of spotted knapweed. Contain Canada thistle, St. Johnswort, and yellow toadflax. Emphasize prevention or eradication of new noxious weed infestations.
<b>Wildlife Resources</b>	Objective	0440	Maintain or restore shrub communities for big-game winter/spring range in the lower Rapid River Watershed.
	Objective	0441	Increase white-headed woodpecker and flammulated owl habitat by managing ponderosa pine stands within the Warm Dry Douglas-fir/Moist Ponderosa Pine and Dry Grand Fir vegetation groups toward the desired ranges of size classes, canopy closures, species composition, snags, and coarse woody debris, as described in Appendix A.
	Guideline	0442	An increase in the white-headed woodpecker or flammulated owl habitat may be achieved by the following methods: a) Reducing tree densities and ladder fuels under and around existing large ponderosa trees and snags to reduce the risk of tree-replacing fire and to restore more open canopy conditions. b) Managing the firewood program to retain large-diameter ponderosa pine and large snags of other species through signing, public education, size restriction, area closures, or other appropriate methods.
<b>Recreation Resources</b>	Objective	0443	Continue to permit outfitter and guide service within the Rapid River corridor to contribute to the range of recreation opportunities and experiences.
	Objective	0444	Help prevent illegal outfitting by identifying and reporting illegal outfitter and guide operations to the Idaho Outfitter and Guide Licensing Board and Idaho Fish and Game Department.
	Objective	0445	Enforce motorized trail designations and restrictions with increased on-the-ground patrols to allow for improved big-game security during hunting season.
	Objective	0446	Remove pit toilets and replace with vault toilets to reduce resource impacts and improve recreation experiences.
	Objective	0447	Resolve user conflicts arising from unauthorized motorized use by enforcing motorized trail designations and restrictions.
	Objective	0448	Manage motorized recreation to address erosion, flow channeling, soil compaction, and loss of vegetation.

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description		
Recreation Resources	Objective	0449	Rehabilitate pioneered, non-system trails to mitigate erosion, flow channeling, soil compaction, and loss of vegetation.		
	Objective	0450	Where a viable alternative exists, relocate trails that are currently within riparian areas to mitigate erosion and sedimentation.		
	Objective	0451	Where motorized use is consistent with the recreation emphasis and will not cause unacceptable resource damage, reconstruct existing 2-wheel motorized trails to accommodate 4-wheel ATVs.		
	Objective	0452	Make travel management planning a priority in the Rapid River Watershed.		
	Objective	0453	Achieve or maintain the following ROS strategy:		
			ROS Class	Percent of Mgt. Area	
				Summer	Winter
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized			28%	38%	
Semi-Primitive Motorized			57%	48%	

MPC/Resource Area	Direction	Number	Management Direction Description
<b>Lands and Special Uses</b>	Objective	0463	Acquire and grant rights-of-way to meet the resource access needs of the Forest Service, the public, and cost-share cooperators, Boise Corporation and the State of Idaho.
<b>Facilities and Roads</b>	Objective	0464	Maintain Pollock Mountain Lookout as a fixed-based fire -detection facility. Repair the lookout if needed to ensure safe operations.
	Guideline	0465	Coordinate transportation system development, management, and decommissioning with the Boise Corporation and State of Idaho cost-share cooperators to develop a shared transportation system serving the lands of all parties to the extent possible.

**Satan Lake**